

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSM-03 DOE-11
SOE-02 /110 W
-----116761 020556Z /65

R 011603Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5030
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EG SOPN
SUBJECT: AL-AHALI - LEFT WING WEEKLY

SUMMARY: LEFT WING WEEKLY AL-AHALI APPEARED FEB 1. IT
WAS EXPECTEDLY NEGATIVE ON U.S. ROLE IN PEACE PROCESS.
CRITICISM OF SADAT, HOWEVER, WAS MORE MUTED AND IMPLICIT.
CURTAILMENT TIES WITH USSR DEPLORED. PRC NOT MENTIONED.
MOST OBSERVERS HAD ANTICIPATED LEFTISTS WOULD COME UP
WITH BETTER JOURNAL. END SUMMARY.

1. LONG AWAITED WEEKLY OF OFFICIAL LEFT WING PARTY,
AL-AHALI (THE NATIVES OR THE PEOPLE), APPEARED ON NEWS-
STANDS FOR FIRST TIME FEB 1. PARTY LEADER KHALID MOHIE
EL DIN LISTED AS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, DESPITE HIS CURRENT
ABSENCE IN U.S. TO ATTEND FORUM ON DISARMAMENT
ORGANIZED BY AMERICAN PEACE COMMITTEE. ONLY OTHER
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IDENTIFIABLE INDIVIDUALS CONNECTED WITH PAPER ARE
LUTFI AL-KHULI AND AMIN HUWEIDI (MINISTER OF WAR AND
CHIEF OF INTELLIGENCE FROM 1967 DEBACLE UNTIL NASSER'S
DEATH). REMAINDER OF ARTICLES WRITTEN UNDER PSEUDONYMS.

2. MAIN THEMES AL-AHALI ARE: CRITICISM OF WASHINGTON
FOR ITS POLICY TOWARDS ISRAEL, AND IMPLICIT CRITICISM

OF SADAT FOR CUTTING TIES WITH SOVIETS. ON FORMER, UN-NAMED PARTY SOURCE QUOTED AS SAYING EGYPTIAN PUBLIC NO LONGER WILLING ACCEPT USUAL WASHINGTON EXPLANATIONS FOR LACK OF PEACE PROGRESS (PRESIDENTIAL AND/OR CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS, ISRAELI DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS, NEED TO STUDY SITUATION, ETC.). THEME REPEATED IN SEVERAL ARTICLES, WITH EMPHASIS ON CLAIM USG FULLY CAPABLE OF DELIVERING ISRAEL--IF ADMINISTRATION SO DESIRES. HOWEVER, "ASTRONOMICAL AMOUNT MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID" WHICH CONTINUES FLOW TO ISRAEL, PLUS CARTER STATEMENT THAT HE WOULD PREFER POLITICAL SUICIDE TO PRESSURING ISRAEL, VIEWED AS INDICATING "ABSOLUTE AND COMPLETE U.S. ALIGNMENT" WITH ZIONIST STATE. PAPER CITED, AS PARTICULARLY OMINOUS, CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL (SIC) OF TRANSFER 150 F-15'S AND F-16'S TO ISRAEL "ON VERY DAY POLITICAL COMMITTEE MET." SAID ADMINISTRATION'S AGREEMENT "CONSIDER" SALE OF F-5'S TO EGYPT NOT ADEQUATE BALANCE SINCE AIRCRAFT "SLOW AND UNSUITABLE MODEL MANUFACTURED 20 YEARS AGO"(SIC). ADDITIONALLY, PAPER POSITED CIA RELEASE OF INFORMATION CONCERNING PROBABLE ISRAELI POSSESSION NUCLEAR WEAPONS "TRANSPARENT BLACKMAIL", GEARED TO FORCING EGYPT RECONVENE POLITICAL AND MILITARY SUBCOMMITTEES.

3. PAPER OBSERVED EGYPTIANS HAVE ONLY THEMSELVES TO BLAME FOR STATE OF AFFAIRS. PARTY OPPOSED SADAT'S VISIT TO ISRAEL BECAUSE IT CONCLUDED TRIP WOULD NOT CONTRIBUTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO ARAB STRENGTH, BUT LIKELY PROVE DIVISIVE. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS HAVE DEMONSTRATED PARTY CONCLUSION CORRECT. SADAT OFFERED ALL CONCESSIONS IN ADVANCE WITHOUT RECEIVING ANY POSITIVE RESULTS. POLICY HAS SACRIFICED EGYPTIAN MILITARY EFFICIENCY THROUGH DETERIORATION OF GOE-SOVIET RELATIONSHIP. THIS ALSO UNDERMINED ECONOMIC STRENGTH BY SUBJECTING EGYPT TO DOMINATION OF FOREIGN CAPITALISM UNDER "OPEN DOOR" SLOGAN. END RESULT, ACCORDING AL-AHALI, WILL BE CANCELLATION OF GENEVA AND SUBSTITUTION OF UNILATERAL SETTLEMENT WITH ISRAEL.

4. AL-KHULI'S BACK PAGE ARTICLE DWELT ON RECENT VISIT TO U.S., WHERE HE DISCOVERED AMERICAN YOUTH ALIENATED AS RESULT ABSENCE ANY COMMON IDEOLOGY. YOUNG AMERICANS, EARLIER, UNITED IN OPPOSITION TO VIET NAM AND NIXON ADMINISTRATION. NOW, ACCORDING AL-KHULI, YOUH LACK SPECIFIC PROGRAM OR LONG RANGE GOAL. AL-KHULI FOUND NO IDEOLOGICAL INSTITUTION IN U.S. CAPABLE OF BETTERING SOCIETY. REMAINDER AL-KHULI ARTICLE LESS CRITICAL OF U.S. AND, FOR LEFTIST, EXPRESSED UNUSUAL DEGREE OF SYMPATHY FOR CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S DOMESTIC EFFORTS.

5. COMMENT: AL-AHALI'S FIRST 8 PAGE EDITION HAD BETTER LAYOUT, AND HIGHER QUALITY WRITING, THAN CENTER PARTY WEEKLY--ALTHOUGH NO O SANNARD O ANY CAIRO D' DAILY OR RIGHT WING'S AHRAR. PAPER CONTAINED NO INDICATION NUMBER COPIES PRINTED AND WAS ABSOLUTELY DEVOID OF PAID ADVERTISEMENTS. EILTS

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Message Attributes

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